

**Amendments to the Claims:**

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A halogen-free fire-retarded plastic composition suitable for coating a substrate, comprising an acrylic resin and an intumescent agent, wherein:

- said composition is in the plastisol state and comprises a plasticizing medium in which the acrylic resin and the intumescent agent are dispersed;
- said composition exhibits, at low shear rates, Newtonian rheological behavior with a viscosity of less than 6000 mPa.s;
- said composition exhibits, at high shear rates, pseudoplastic rheological behavior;
- the intumescent agent comprises at least one strong acid compound;
- a weight proportion of the intumescent agent is included in the composition in a proportion by weight of from 50 to 200% with respect to the weight of the acrylic resin; and
- the plasticizing medium comprises a plasticizer chosen from the group consisting of phthalates, phosphates and phosphate/phthalate-type plasticizers.

2. (Previously Presented) The composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein a weight proportion of the plasticizing medium comprising a phthalate or a phosphate is at most equal to 200% with respect to the weight of acrylic resin and/or a weight proportion of the intumescent agent is at most equal to 200% with respect to the weight of acrylic resin.

3. (Previously Presented) The composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein the plasticizing medium comprises predominantly, by weight, an organic phosphate.

4. (Previously Presented) The composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein the plasticizing medium comprises a phthalate.
5. (Previously Presented) The composition as claimed in claim 2, wherein the proportion by weight of the plasticizing medium is between 100 and 200% by weight of resin.
6. (Previously Presented) The composition as claimed in claim 2, wherein the proportion by weight of the intumescent agent is between 50 and 200% by weight of resin.
7. (Withdrawn) A flame-retarded composite yarn comprising a core made of a material of low combustibility and a sheath made of resin, wherein said yarn is capable of being obtained by coating said core with the flame-retarded composition as claimed in claim 1.
8. (Withdrawn) The yarn as claimed in claim 7, wherein the material of the core is a continuous glass filament.
9. (Withdrawn) A composite structure comprising a substrate of low combustibility and at least one layer of resin, wherein said structure is capable of being obtained by coating the substrate with a flame-retarded composition as claimed in claim 1.
10. (Withdrawn) A textile structure in which yarns as claimed in claim 7 are assembled or entangled.
11. (Withdrawn) A sun screen comprising a textile structure as claimed in claim 9.
12. (Withdrawn) A sign comprising a textile structure as claimed in claim 9.
13. (Withdrawn) A covering for walls or ceilings, comprising a textile structure as claimed in claim 9.
14. (Withdrawn) A process for obtaining a yarn comprising a core and a plastic sheath comprising a halogen-free fire-retarded composition, consisting of at least one acrylic

resin and an intumescent agent which are dispersed in a plasticizing medium, which process is characterized in that:

- a) a die suitable for passage of the core of said yarn is used;
- b) the plastic composition is used in the ungelled plastisol state;
- c) the core of the yarn is passed through said die, with a peripheral distribution of the plastisol around said core;
- d) the rheological properties of the plastisol at the shear rate of the die, at least equal to  $20,000 \text{ s}^{-1}$ , are adapted by formulating said ungelled plastisol so that at low shear rate, at most equal to  $400 \text{ s}^{-1}$ , it exhibits a Newtonian behaviour, with a viscosity of less than or equal to  $6,000 \text{ mPa.s}$ , measured with a Brookfield RVT viscometer at 20 rpm, and at high shear rate, at least equal to  $10,000 \text{ s}^{-1}$ , it exhibits a pseudoplastic behaviour;
- e) the gelling of the fire-retarded composition is carried out.

15. (Withdrawn) The process as claimed in claim 14, wherein a weight proportion of the plasticizing medium in the plastisol comprising a phthalate or a phosphate is at most equal to 200% with respect to the weight of acrylic resin and/or a weight proportion of the intumescent agent is at most equal to 200% with respect to the weight of acrylic resin.

16. (Withdrawn) The process as claimed in claim 14, wherein the plasticizing medium comprises predominantly, by weight, an organic phosphate.

17. (Withdrawn) The process as claimed in claim 14, wherein the proportion by weight of the plasticizing medium in the plastisol is between 100 and 200% by weight of resin.

18. (Withdrawn) The composition as claimed in claim 14, wherein the proportion by weight of the intumescent agent in the plastisol is between 50 and 200% by weight of resin.

19. (Withdrawn) A flame-retarded composite yarn with a sheath made of resin and of low combustibility, wherein it is capable of being obtained by the process as claimed in claim 14.
20. (Withdrawn) The yarn as claimed in claim 19, wherein the material of the core is a continuous glass filament.
21. (Withdrawn) A textile structure in which yarns as claimed in claim 20 are assembled or entangled.
22. (Withdrawn) A sun screen comprising a textile structure as claimed in claim 21.
23. (Withdrawn) A sign comprising a textile structure as claimed in claim 22.
24. (Withdrawn) A covering for walls or ceilings, comprising a textile structure as claimed in claim 22.
25. (Previously Presented) The composition as claimed in claim 2, wherein the proportion by weight of the plasticizing medium is between 120 and 145% by weight of resin.
26. (Previously Presented) The composition as claimed in claim 2, wherein the proportion by weight of the intumescent agent is between 150 and 200% by weight of resin.
27. (Withdrawn) The yarn as claimed in claim 7, wherein said material of low combustibility is a halogen-free material.
28. (Withdrawn) The composite structure as claimed in claim 9, wherein the substrate is a halogen-free substrate.
29. (Withdrawn) The process as claimed in claim 14, wherein the proportion by weight of the plasticizing medium in the plastisol is between 120 and 145% by weight of resin.

30. (Withdrawn) The composition as claimed in claim 14, wherein the proportion by weight of the intumescent agent in the plastisol is between 150 and 200% by weight of resin.

31. (Withdrawn) The yarn as claimed in claim 19, wherein said sheath is made of a halogen-free material.